Skiers/Protest calls against Amendment 2 dwindle, officials say

From A1

have been canceled because of Amendment 2, said Rich Grant of the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

They represent a loss of about $35 million — a drop in the bucket in the state's $6.4 billion-a-year tourism industry — and Grant said much of that amount may be recovered by booking other conventions.

"There has been a definite loss of meeting business. Some of it is replaceable, some of it isn't," Grant said.

In Colorado Springs, there has been a $3 million loss in convention business, and officials said that long-term effects of the boycott are still unknown.

In the beginning weeks of the boycott movement, convention officials in Denver and Colorado Springs were flooded by phone calls protesting the amendment. Now, they receive hardly any, they said.

Jan Williams, vice president of Boycott Colorado, argued the boycott has had an economic impact and has increased awareness of anti-gay-rights initiatives. That's something Ground Zero, a Springs-based gay-rights group, agrees with.

"A question to ask is how much more money would have been brought into this state if there weren't any calls for boycott," said Franklin Whitworth, a Ground Zero spokesman.

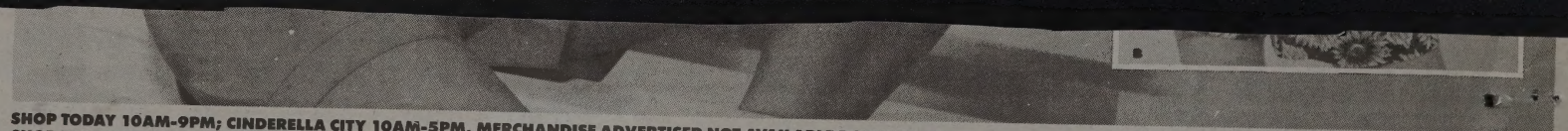
With the summer season just ahead, boycott organizers are continuing to urge people to avoid Colorado, but tourism officials are unperturbed by the threat.

Sandy Torres of the Colorado Tourism Board said the debut of the Colorado Rockies baseball team and an August visit by Pope John Paul II could push summer tourism to record levels.

The Gazette Telegraph contributed to this report.

Clinton's program includes money for a wide range of projects, from summer jobs and childhood immunization to unemployment compensation, small-business loan guarantees, community development block grants and student loans.

Clinton declined to say how much money he was willing to chop. A senior administration official said the president was talking about "a substantial amount" — in the billions of dollars.



SHOP TODAY 10AM-9PM; CINDERELLA CITY 10AM-5PM. MERCHANDISE ADVERTISED NOT AVAILABLE DOWNTOWN.
SHOP THE DOWNTOWN CLOSING SALE TODAY 8AM-7PM.

MAY D&F · FOLEY'S

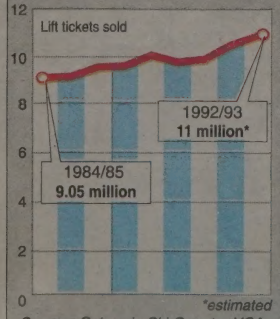
UPDATE

GT 4/16/93

Associated Press

Upward on the slopes

The number of skiiers on Colorado's slopes has risen in recent years, including this ye[illegible] despite a boycott called over Amendment 2.



Source: Colorado Ski Country USA

Heavy snow lures skiers to Colorado

Call for boycott of state over Amendment 2 apparently goes unheeded

Associated Press

Colorado ski officials say unusually heavy snowfall and excellent ski conditions buried the boycott over Amendment 2.

Figures released Thursday show 9.87 million lift tickets were sold at Colorado resorts from November through March, putting this ski season ahead of the 9.4 million lift tickets sold last season at this time, according to Colorado Ski Country USA, a ski industry group. Cathy Kruzic, a spokeswoman for the group, said 11 million lift tickets may be sold before this season ends, outpacing the record 10.4 million sold last year.

"Obviously, the good snow has played an important role in our bookings — perhaps overshadowing the effects of the amendment to some degree," Kruzic said.

Snowfall accumulations this season have soared 40 percent above average. More snow fell this week, prompting many resorts to extend operations into May, a month longer than usual.

Out-of-state skiers interviewed in Colorado said the boycott did not influence their vacation plans.

Monique Miller, a 39-year-old elementary schoolteacher from Topeka, Kan., said her family had discussed the boycott, but family tradition and great snow conditions persuaded them to come to Colorado.

"We had heard quite a bit about (the boycott)," Miller said Wednesday while vacationing at Keystone resort, "but it really didn't make a difference.

"We had heard that the s[illegible]w was fantastic — and believe me, it really is. Colorado has the best skiing in the world."

Boycott organizers believe efforts may have had little effect on the ski trade because of timing; Amendment 2 was approved Nov. 3, when many people already had locked in their winter vacation plans. The initiative, which prohibits laws protecting gays from discrimination based on sexual orientation, is on hold pending the outcome of a court challenge.

Boycotters have had better success targeting conventions. Twenty-nine conventions scheduled in the Denver area through 1999

See SKIERS/A3

two thirds in Denver, rs as much as $237

who've lost their money and even families, real luck was finding Gamblers Anonymous./**F1**

at the Medical Center Hospital in Johnson City, Tenn.

Baldwin co-stars.

Gazette Telegraph news services

27	30	36	40
46	47	51	53

WEATHER

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TRENDS

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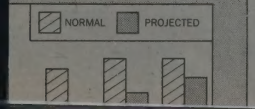

STATISTICS

AIR QUALITY
(3 p.m. THU. APR. 15)

GOOD	ACCEPTABLE	POOR
0 25	50 75 100	150 200

OZONE - 34
CARBON MONOXIDE - 13

24-HOUR

Time	Temp.	Wind	Humid.
Wednesday			
6 p.m.	45	NE 10	27
7 p.m.	44	NE 14	30
8 p.m.	40	NE 12	44
9 p.m.	37	NE 12	61
10 p.m.	37	N 8	64
11 p.m.	36	NE 10	69
Thursday			

TODAY'S ACCU-WEATHER® FORECAST
FRIDAY, APRIL 16